

GOVERNOR CANTU A REAL FRIEND OF AMERICANS

Under His Beneficent Government Public Institutions Likened After Those of Our Country Have Prospered in Lower California.

Will Mexicali Government Recognize Carranza or Remain Independent of All Factions Until a Staple Government Is Established?

(By B. F. Fly)

The Mexican situation is becoming most acute, from a Yuma-border standpoint.

We have but one company of United States regulars located at this point and just at present these 60 odd men are scattered all the way from Yuma to the Mexican border, five miles below Gadsden.

Our home militia company is now doing patrol duty in the Clifton strike zone, leaving Yuma wholly under the care of Capt. Murphy and his Company D, 12th Infantry, U. S. A.

Under these circumstances and in view of the fact that Uncle Sam has just recognized the Carranza faction as the de facto government of Mexico, and in view of the further fact that opposite our border has at all times been regarded as Villa territory, it is interesting to know just whether Governor-General Cantu will recognize Carranza or remain as a possible adherent of Villa.

I have just had a most interesting interview with a personal friend who is largely interested in Mexican property. He has just returned from Mexicali, where I presume he held frequent conferences with Gen. Cantu. At any rate, I know he knows what he is talking about, for he is very "close to the throne" of Governor-General

Cantu.

"What impression do you put on conditions in the northern district of Baja California?" I asked.

"I have only been in Mexicali and I assure you that I was really astonished at the tranquility that exists in that town. The government of the General Estevan Cantu, jefe politico of the northern district of Lower California, has accomplished perfect order, living strictly up to the constitutional laws of the Republic of Mexico. All the government offices are under a perfect organization. The civil judges of their respective sections of the northern district of Lower California are conferring real justice in all cases brought before them. The lines of communications are entirely in good order. The general direction of the customs houses and the frontier customs houses are performing their duties as in normal times. In fact, everything is running absolutely in perfect order. Contrary to the general supposition, there is no discrimination; citizens and foreigners are all treated alike."

"How about Gen. Cantu's army?" I asked.

"The army of General Cantu is really an army. He has a large number of troops, perfectly equipped and armed. The officers are part of the former federal army—the majority of them are students of the military school in Mexico City, and they have successfully formed a co-operation of the highest discipline."

"What about conditions in general?"

"The progress of the northern district of Lower California under the regime of General Cantu is astonishing. You know that in the times of General Diaz he had set aside a fund to cover the running expenses of the governor of Lower California, but in those days the receipts were not sufficient to cover the expense. Notwithstanding the fact that General Cantu

has increased the expense, he has collected money sufficient to cover his expense at present and has added very many substantial improvements in the different towns within the district he dominates.

"In the northern district of Lower California everybody is paid in Mexican or American gold. The army of General Cantu is also paid in gold. The soldiers wages are one dollar and ten cents per day. Therefore, you can see that the industries and commercial business have reached a universally satisfactory stage, notwithstanding the increase in taxes which cover more than the current expenses. The surplus is invested in municipal improvements, among which are, in Mexicali, a city park, a strictly modern sewerage system, and a wagon bridge across New River, which has greatly benefited the ranchers."

"They say that General Cantu has taxed the commercial houses and that lately he has decreed a large custom tax on the exportation of cotton." I suggested.

"The government of General Cantu is a government that stands for order. He has many enemies who will spread false statements against him. The tax that the farmers pay is in equity and as a matter of fact and of further proof, the circumstances that exist instead of closing some new negotiations regarding cotton. Recently General Cantu had a conference with the merchants, commissioners and farmers of Calexico and Mexicali and then agreed that the exportation tax on the bale of cotton would be a revenue stamp of one dollar, this not signifying a custom tax, but a contribution tax of the interior, according to the Mexican laws.

"The government of which we are talking not only has made efforts for the progress of the northern district, which it dominates, but has tried, in every way, to establish schools. In all the towns there are public schools and also in ranches populated by the Cocopal Indians they have installed some rural schools."

"What attitude will General Cantu take on account of the recognition of General Carranza?"

"General Cantu, being a great patriot, he is a man of principle. I am sure he will know how to sustain his government and comply—as he has been doing—with his duty. General Cantu may not have to recognize Carranza as he is perfectly acquainted with the old Diaz senator and undoubtedly he will continue like a good firm Mexican, giving every kind of a guarantee that is prescribed by the constitution, which he dominates.

"Until there is a constitutional government in Mexico to which he will render account and believe me when this time shall arrive—which we hope will be soon—General Cantu will be highly honored. You will note his just and honorable administration and Mexico will note it in history among its members as a patriot and count him as one of its faithful sons."

"In conclusion, for the interest of the population of Yuma, can you tell me any thing about the charge against Joe Delgado?" I asked.

"I have no details regarding that matter, although I know that he was imprisoned on account of the fact that he contributed, with other conspirators, against the good government of

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the northern district of Lower California, and, according to law, there is a heavy penalty against such violators of the law. Notwithstanding this fact, General Cantu recommended that Joe Delgado should be treated with leniency; therefore, the judge consented to liberate him, and, as a matter of fact, the recommendation of General Cantu, this was actually the case, owing to the notice that was sent that the grandmother of Delgado, who is a Mexican woman, was very ill on account of the imprisonment of her grandson. This notice was conveyed by a Mexican whose name is Lito Romo, whose appeal was attended to; therefore, it goes to show the good feeling which General Cantu has had for all his brother Mexicans."

My information is that by tomorrow Gov. Gen. Cantu will either officially recognize the Carranza government or declare his section independent of all factions and attempt to hold it against the world. But he is now, as he has always been, a real friend of the United States.

Immigration Inspector Charles B. Franklin left last night for a rest on the coast.